(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The matter is under examination in consultation with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Railway accidents in the country

637.. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the railway accidents which took place after the Government took over;

(b) what is the extent of loss of human lives and property due to these accidents;

(c) what is the compensation paid by Government to the victims and to the next of kin; and

(d) the causes of the accidents and the steps taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There were 203 train accidents, comprising of 11 collisions, 177 derailments, 14 accidents at level crossings and one case of fire in trains, on Indian Railways during the period 21-6-1991 to 31-10-1991.

(b) In these accidents, 87 persons, including 58 passengers, lost their lives and the damage to railway property has been estimated at Rs. 7.03 crores.

(c) No compensation has been paid so far. However a sum of Rs. 7.55 lakhs has been paid as ex-gratia relief to the next kin of the deceased and the injured.

(d) The accidents occurred due to human failure, equipment failure and sabotage etc. Some of the important steps being taken to reduce the accidents are induction of technical devices to aid the human element, intensive and frequent inspections of sensitive installations, monitoring the performance of the staff of critical safety categories such as drivers, guards, station masters, etc., intensive training including psychological checks of staff in operational categories surprise checks against carriage of inflammable/explosive material in passenger trains, provision of whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs at the approaches of unmanned level crossings and improving visibility for road users and train drivers.

12.00 NOON

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th January, 1991 to Starred Question 142 regarding chemicals developed by O.N.G.C.

[**The Deputy Chairman** in the Chair].

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I have a point of order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me finish the statement by the Minister correcting the answer to Question No. 142 answered on 7th January, 1991. Shri B. Shankaranand.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, may I make a submission?

श्री प्रमोद महाजन (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति महोदया, इसी पर कहना चाहता हूं कि 7 जनवरी, 1991 को दिए गए प्रश्न का स्पष्टीकरण अगर नवम्बर, में हो तो 9 महीने से अधिक की देरी इस स्पष्टीकरण पर क्यों हुई ? पहले मंत्री महोदय यह बताएं ।

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, I am on a point of order.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Madam, before making my statement, I say that the hon. Member has made a point and I admit that there has been an inordinate delay in correcting this answer and I crave the indulgence of the House in this regard.

Madam, I invite the attention of the House to the portion of the answer part (b) to Starred Question No. 142 given on 7-1-1991 and request that it may be corrected as given below:

The original version was like this:

> "In respect of Hydroxy Propyl Guargum (H.P. Gaurgum), efforts are being made to contact interested private entrepreneurs for developing commercial utilisation of the product. As regards Hydroxy Ethyl Cellulose (HEC), ONGC has already entered into a contract with two private entrepreneurs for transfer of know-how and commercialisation of the product."

The corrected version is as follows:

> "In respect of Hydroxy Propyl Guargum (H.P.), ONGC has already provided knowhow to two private entrepreneurs for its manufacture. As regards Hydroxy Ethyl Cellulose (HEC), no argeement has been signed so far with any private company."

The inconvenience caused to the House is regretted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Message from the Lok Sabha.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान) : महोदया, मैंने इस पर सप्लीमेंटरी पूछना है ।

उपसभापति : आपको सप्लीमेंटरी पूछना है ? चलिए पूछिए ।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : महोदया मंत्री जी ने यह बताया कि यह जो एच०ई०सी० का प्रोडक्ट है, उसके लिए अभी कोई एग्रीमेंट नहीं हुआ है । मैंने पहले भी, अपना जो मूल प्रश्न था उसमें, यह पूछा था कि यह जो एग्रीमेंट करते हैं प्राइवेट एंटरप्रिनर्स के साथ में, उसके क्या मापदंड स्थापित किए हैं और क्या प्रोसिजर तय किया है ? इसकी हमको जानकारी होनी चाहिए । पहली बात और जो दूसरी यह कि क्या एचईसी के लिए आप प्राइवेट एंटरप्रिनर्स को अलाऊ करेंगे ? साथ ही, मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि इसके लिए आपने क्या सेन्टर, या अन्य व्यवस्था की है, जिसके द्वारा प्राइवेट एंटरप्रिनर्स इस प्रकार के प्रोडक्ट में आपके ओ०एन०जी०सी० के साथ शामिल हो सकते हैं या उसमें सहयोग दे सकते हैं ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Madam, I should say that when certain products have been found out by the ONGC, technology is being conveyed to the entrepreneurs. The entrepreneurs have facility to get the information from the ONGC and this is done through interaction between the ONGC and the private entrepreneurs through seminars, personal contact and getting information otherwise. Whenever the ONGC finds that a certain entrepreneur is capable of producing the product which the ONGC prescribes, they do provide all the information about the production of certain products and the entrepreneurs are benefitted.

RE-DISOUSSION ON CYCLONE IN ANDHRA PRADESH

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I would like to make a submission. This is with regard to a decision taken in the Business Advisory Committee. Due to the recent cyclone and heavy rains in Andhra Pradesh vast tracts of paddy crop and other crops have been destroyed. What is more, over 250 people died in the recent cyclone and heavy rains in Andhra Pradesh.